

there's no doubt in my mind we can accomplish big things for our country. The work begins tomorrow for you. And when you're sworn in, I hope you'll take a moment to appreciate that you're a part of our history, that when you made a decision to put your name on the ballot and ask people for the vote and became successful, that you're a part of a small, distinguished group of men and women who've had the honor of serving the United States of America in the Congress.

So I want to congratulate you on your victory. I wish you great success in your career. If you're so interested, Laura and I are willing to—would love to have a picture with you in the Blue Room, and then we'd like to share some of our food with you.

Good luck tomorrow, congratulations, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:39 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kitty Martinez, wife of Senator Mel R. Martinez; and Senator Ken Salazar and Representative John T. Salazar of Colorado.

**Memorandum on Provision of  
Emergency Disaster Relief  
Assistance to Twelve Countries  
Affected by the Asian Tsunami,  
Including the Drawdown Under  
Section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign  
Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended,  
of Articles and Services**

*January 4, 2005*

Presidential Determination No. 2005–16

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the  
Secretary of Defense*

*Subject:* Provision of Emergency Disaster Relief Assistance to Twelve Countries Affected by the Asian Tsunami, including the Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, of Articles and Services

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including my authority as Commander in Chief, I hereby direct the Secretary of Defense to provide such disaster assistance to Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka,

India, Maldives, Malaysia, Burma, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and the Seychelles as is necessary to prevent further loss of life, as determined by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State.

In addition, pursuant to section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2) (FAA), I hereby determine that it is in the national interest of the United States to draw down articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense, for the purpose of providing international disaster relief assistance to countries affected by the Asian tsunami.

I therefore direct the drawdown of up to \$65 million of defense articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense for these countries for the purposes and under the authorities of chapter 9 of part I of the FAA related to international disaster assistance.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 7, 2005]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on January 10.

**Remarks Following a Discussion on  
Medical Liability Reform in  
Collinsville, Illinois**

*January 5, 2005*

**The President.** Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks for coming out to say hello. It's great to be in southern Illinois. I appreciate the chance to come to Madison County. I'm honored to be the first sitting President to visit the city of Collinsville. I'm sorry Laura is not with me.

**Audience members.** Aw-w-w! [*Laughter*]

**The President.** That is generally the reaction. [*Laughter*] I was hoping she and I could go look at the Catsup Bottle. [*Laughter*]

Thanks for waiting on me. I had a visit with some of the—some folks from the area